

## **Weekly Activity Report for the Week of February 3-7, 2014**

### **Region 6 Superfund Division**

**FORT HOOD OIL SPILL, KILLEEN, TX:** Staff responded to a “major” oil spill into a creek on Fort Hood. There was a significant delay in their response contractor mobilizing to the scene. The Base’s did not follow their response plan as described in their Facility Response Plan (FRP). Fort Hood and the Defense Logistics Agency have since retained a contractor and are currently cleaning the impacted area. PRB will be following up with the facility to ensure that their FRP is updated in addition to evaluating if additional attention needs to be made at military facilities. (Broyles, x3166)

**BIOLOGICAL RESPONSE TEAM, DALLAS, TX:** Staff participated, via conference call, in a tabletop exercise (TTX) held January 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The TTX was conducted to assess the scientific and communications gaps in biological response for the 2014 Program to Align Research and Technology with the Needs of Environmental Response (PARTNER). In particular, the PARTNER process was used to identify biological research gaps consists of a TTX of an intentional, wide-area anthrax release scenario, and the outcomes will be utilized to prioritized research projects for EPA’s Office of Research and Development. (Broyles, x3166)

**BIOWATCH PROGRAM EXIT COORDINATION WITH DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS), AUSTIN, TX:** Staff met in Austin, Texas, with the DHS-Public Health program coordinator and the DHS-BioWatch program coordinator on January 27<sup>th</sup>, in conjunction with Austin’s BioWatch Advisory Committee Meeting. In particular, staff discussed the status of EPA’s BioWatch disengagement with DHS. (Broyles, x3166)

**CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI-TERRORISM STANDARDS (CFATS) - RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN (RMP) NON-FILERS LETTERS, WASHINGTON, DC:** The Region coordinated with OEM on the issuance of the letters to over 50 facilities who had been identified as not having an RMP in place. Recipients are only being asked if they should be complying with RMP. EPA believes it is appropriate to first allow those facilities that are not required to comply with the RMP regulation to so state, and to drop them from further public discussions on this topic. Facilities that are required to comply will appear on the RMP database as soon as those facilities come into compliance. (Broyles, X 3166)

**VERMICULITE PRODUCTS, HOUSTON TX:** Removal of asbestos contaminated soil in three stockpiles began February 5th. Developing draft Fact Sheet for outreach on Vermiculite Products on February 4. (Broyles x7205, Talton, x7205)

**WILCOX OIL REFINERY:** Attended an ODEQ meeting, information session about Wilcox Site. Had a great turn out (75+). (Talton x7205)

**BROWNFIELDS NATIONAL GRANT COMPETITION:** For R6, 40 proposals were submitted. 23 were assessment, 10 clean-up, and 7 RLF proposals. **State/Tribe Break-out --** AR and TX each had 11. OK had 7 and LA had 6. Isleta Pueblo and Navajo Nation submitted as well as 3 other proposals from NM. Communities that submitted included Dallas, Oklahoma

City, McKinney, Lewisville, Lake Charles, Austin, Hot Springs, San Antonio, Temple, Pine Bluff, Lewisville, Bogalusa, Monroe, and Houston. (Talton x7205)

**FOIA's Overdue:**

San Jacinto River Waste Pits – 4 separate FOIAs, all with 6 RC-S. Discussed with Mark Peycke. Work is progressing as quickly as possible. anticipated clear date: *unknown*

Patrick Bayou – same as above

Mayflower – also with 6RC-S. Site attorney reviewing documents in conjunction with litigation. anticipated clear date: *unknown*

Anaconda Copper - Final Response - *ORC review* / anticipated clear date: *unknown*

**THIS WEEK'S EVENTS 2/3 – 2/7/2014**

**S. CAVALCADE**—Made arrangements for our upcoming open house at the end of the month. Finishing the new fact sheet, invitations and posters to be used at the event. (Talton, x7205)

**VERMICULITE PRODUCTS/Houston,Texas:**Traveling to the site to go door to door in the local neighborhood and gather information pertaining to the site. (Talton, x7205)

**BROWNFIELDS THRESHOLD AND PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW:** This week the Brownfields Section will be conducting threshold review on the 40 grant proposals that were submitted for the National Competition. (Talton, x7205)

**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION'S (NRC) COMMENTS ON HOMESTAKE MINING COMPANY:** Draft responses to NRC's comments on the Homestake Mining Company Draft Human Health Risk Assessment will be provided to NRC this week. These responses will be posted on the Homestake Mining Company Superfund web site after NRC's review. (Banipal, x7324)

**ADDITIONAL GROUND WATER SAMPLING IN SAN MATEO CREEK BASIN:** A call is scheduled for February 10, 2014, with Candace Head-Dylla, from Bluewater Valley Downstream Alliance (BVDA) and Laura Watchempino, from Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment (MASE) to discuss EPA's planned ground water investigation for the San Mateo Creek drainage basin and propose additional sampling. The EPA and the New Mexico Environment Department plan to collect ground water data to determine background water quality and for enforcement purposes. (Banipal, x7324)

**REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM 4 (RRT4) MEETING, MOBILE, AL:** Staff will participate in the RRT4 meeting scheduled for February 11<sup>th</sup>- 13<sup>th</sup>. In particular, discussion will continue between RRT4 and RRT6 leadership regarding comparison of the two regional dispersant use/pre-authorization plans for potential combination into a joint RRT4 and RRT6 dispersant plan. (Broyles, x3166)

**SAN JACINTO SUPERFUND SITE:** On January 30, 2014, the EPA conducted a site community meeting at the Highlands Community Center. The meeting provided an update to the community on the status of the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study and the completed repairs to the waste pits cap. Over 120 community members attended the meeting. Their main concerns are related to health issues and believe that the groundwater (both private wells and city

water) is contaminated by the site. The community wants a complete removal of the waste pits and the cleanup to start immediately. No elected officials were present at the meeting. Representatives for Harris County and the Port of Houston were present. **(Faultry, x2731)**

**RSR SITE TOUR:** On Thursday, January 30, 2014, the site RPM conducted a tour of all Operable Units associated with the RSR Superfund site. The tour was conducted at the request of City of Dallas Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Monica R. Alonso, and included several of her support staff. The tour also included three City of Dallas attorneys. The primary concern is a result of inquiries from residents in west Dallas that believe there is still a fund for medical assistance. The tour was very well received and appreciated. The site RPM encouraged continued communication and collaboration. **(Faultry, x2731)**

### **ISSUES/EVENTS**

**EXXON MAYFLOWER OIL SPILL JUDICIAL REFERRAL UPDATE, MAYFLOWER, AR:** With DOJ assistance, EPA provided responses to Exxon's first set of interrogatories. **(Broyles, x3166)**

**VERMICULITE PRODUCTS, INC., HOUSTON, HARRIS COUNT, TX:** Vermiculite Products Inc. is an active vermiculite exfoliation facility that processes vermiculite for use in concrete aggregate. EPA identified actionable Libby amphibole asbestos soil contamination in soil piles on an adjacent property which is undergoing residential redevelopment. An emergency response action has been approved to remove and appropriately dispose of the contaminated soil piles. EPA is implementing a removal assessment to determine the extent of contamination. In conjunction with the removal action EPA is planning outreach activities for local elected officials and the community. **(Broyles. x3166)**